

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 66

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 30, 2010

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WEBB, Mrs. HAGAN, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway links the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Shenandoah National Park, providing 469 scenic miles for motor recreation along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and Virginia;

Whereas North Carolina state geologist Joseph Hyde Pratt first proposed a scenic road along the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1906;

Whereas, on November 24, 1933, at the recommendation of Virginia Senator Harry Byrd, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes approved construction of the new highway to connect the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the Shenandoah National Park;

Whereas, on September 11, 1935, construction began on the first 12.5-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina;

Whereas Stanley L. Abbott is widely remembered as the “father of the Blue Ridge Parkway” for his work to oversee planning of the project;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway was established by Congress as a unit of the National Park Service on June 30, 1936;

Whereas the National Park Service development program, “Mission 66”, oversaw the completion of most remaining gaps along the Blue Ridge Parkway during the 1950s and 1960s;

Whereas the final stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway was completed in 1987 with the construction of the Linn Cove Viaduct;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway provides recreational opportunities for families in the United States at picnic areas and campgrounds and on scenic drives through the Appalachian mountain passes;

Whereas the diverse topography and numerous vista points along the Blue Ridge Parkway make the road the most accessible way to visit and experience the Southern Appalachian rural landscape and mountains;

Whereas the Parkway is world-renowned for biodiversity, including 74 species of mammals, 50 species of salamanders, 35 species of reptiles, 159 species of birds, and 25 species of fish;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited unit of the National Park Service with nearly 20 million visitors each year;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway promotes regional travel and tourism by unifying the 29 counties through which the road passes, engendering a shared regional identity, providing a common link of interest, and contributing to the economic vitality of the area;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the strongest economic engines in the Southern Appalachian region, generating an estimated \$2,300,000,000 in North Carolina and Virginia annually;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway has received volunteer support from thousands of North Carolinians and Virginians, including 1,400 volunteers in 2008 who provided a total of more than 50,000 hours of service;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is a great public works achievement that maintains natural, historic, and cultural significance for the people of North Carolina and Virginia; and

Whereas this crown jewel of the National Park Service deserves the support of Congress to preserve the ecological and cultural integrity, maintain the infrastructure, and protect the famously scenic views of the Parkway: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the

4 Blue Ridge Parkway; and

- 1 (2) acknowledges the historic and enduring sce-
- 2 nic, recreational, and economic value of this unique
- 3 national treasure.

